THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Department of Tourism has issued instructions to the Regional Director, India Tourism, Guwahati for organising a Tourist Guide Training Programme. Regional Director has taken up the matter with the Government of Assam and an NGO for working out modalities of the Guide training programme.

(b) to (e) Archaeological Survey of India do not have any protected monuments on the Majuli Island. However, some surveys have been conducted by Archaeological Survey of India through its Circle office at Guwahati. The Island is known for its intangible heritage and satriya dance form traditionally associated with Vaishnava religion, arts and culture founded by Vaishnava Saint Sri Sri Shankardeva in the 15th century A.D. Tangible heritage is reported to be the Satra building with wooden architecture which house antiquities like coins, manuscripts, copper plates, ritualistic implements with inscription and images of gods and goddesses.

MoU with U.P.

2078. SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to sign MoU with other States particularly Tamil Nadu on the lines of signing MoU with Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of the development of tourism made in Tamil Nadu and other States of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (c) The Government have not signed any MoU with the States/UTs. However, ITDC has so far signed MoUs with eight State Governments/Tourism Corporations including Tamil Nadu to join hands in taking initiatives for promotion of tourism infrastructure/ services in the State of Tamil Nadu.